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Another Ex-Navy Employee Is Linked to Purported Spy Ring

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WASHINGTON, June 2 — An employee of a military contractor in California has been implicated in a purported Soviet spy ring, Government officials said tonight.

The employee, a former Navy worker who lives near Sacramento, Calif., has been interrogated by Federal agents, according to the officials, who asked not to be named. They said he was suspected of smuggling secret material from the Alameda Naval Air Station near Oakland, Calif. They declined to be more specific about the type of material.

They also said that John A. Walker Jr., who has been accused of being the leader of the ring, was hired by the Navy to give lie detector tests to sailors charged with misconduct, a post that may have given him access to highly classified information.

Meanwhile, Federal agents poring over documents found in Mr. Walker's home in Norfolk, Va., reported that they had found receipts from a trip that he apparently made to Mexico in 1975.

Book About Spies

A copy of the nonfiction book "Falcon and the Snowman" was found in the house, with a bookmark placed between two pages that describe a 1975 meeting in Mexico City between a Russian diplomat and a California man who wanted to pass secrets to the Soviet Union, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. That meeting took place seven days after the date reportedly stamped on Mr. Walker's receipts.

Mr. Walker and his brother and son have been arrested and charged with espionage.

According to the officials, classified military documents were found in the office of the brother, Arthur Walker. The brothers both served in the Navy, and Arthur worked most recently for

VSE Corporation, a military contractor based in Virginia.

The documents, the officials said, included information about designs for ships that would be used as command-and-control centers at sea.

The sources said that the California man, who has been identified in affidavits only as "D," had permitted Federal agents to search his home.

They would not say what was found inside, nor would they describe the ties between "D" and John Walker, a retired Navy communications officer. In a secret message to a Russian diplomat, Mr. Walker used the code name "D" to describe the California man, the officials said.

A former employee of John Walker's private detective agency in Norfolk, Va., said that Mr. Walker had made frequent trips to San Francisco to visit a business partner.

The officials have said that at least three California men who worked with

Mr. Walker in the Navy are under surveillance by law-enforcement agents.

In a thorough search of Mr. Walker's home in Norfolk, Va., F.B.I. agents found hundreds of items that are listed in an evidence log that the bureau made public last week.

On May 20, the log says, agents found an American Express receipt, dated May 11, 1975, from Tampico, Mexico. The receipt was found in a bathroom closet, the log said.

Elsewhere in the house, according to the log, was a copy of the 1979 book, "The Falcon and the Snowman," the story of two Californians who were convicted of selling American satellite secrets to the Soviet Union.

A slip of paper was placed between pages 108 and 109, which describe a Mexico City meeting on May 18, 1975, between a Soviet diplomat and Andrew Daulton Lee, one of the convicted spies.

Tampico, a city on the Gulf of Mexico, is about 200 miles from Mexico City.

An F.B.I. spokesman, David L. Divan, had no comment on the coincidence.

Mr. Lee and Christopher Boyce, two Californians then in their 20's, were convicted of smuggling highly classified satellite secrets to a Soviet agent based in Mexico.

Visit to Mexico

Mr. Walker's visit to Mexico was apparently one of several foreign trips that he made in recent years.

A Federal prosecutor said last week that Mr. Walker apparently planned to gather secret documents from his son, Michael, a yeoman aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz, during a trip to Italy later this year. John Walker was arrested after he left several secret documents gathered on the Nimitz at a secluded location in Maryland, the F.B.I. said.